

MOTHER KEEPER

03

Kailli Sorano



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No.013.INSANTY





PLASTER
HH
14







DON'T
GO
BLAMING
ME.



I JUST
GOT HERE
MYSELF.

SO?
WHAT
DO YOU
NEED?



WHAT
THE HELL,
MAN...? IF
YOU'VE BEEN
HERE, YOU
SHOULD'VE
SAID SOME-
THING.

SHOW
ME.

IT'S TOO
AWKWARD
TO MANAGE
IT BY
MYSELF.

THOUGHT I'D
HAVE YOU FIX
MY RIPPED UP
SKIN.



AL-
RIGHT,
HERE YA
GO...

HMP
NAH, I
TORE THE
SKIN OFF
MYSELF.

UH, HUH.
...THAT'S...
ONE
SERIOUS
DE-
SLOVING
INJURY...

WERE
YOU
PLAYING
CATCH
WITH A
ROCKET
LAUNCHER?

WHA...
BUT I JUST
GOT HERE,
AND YOU
HAVEN'T
FIXED MY
HAND YET!

TURKES...

...IT'S A
BIT LATE...
SHOULDN'T
YOU BE GETTING
HOME ABOUT
NOW?

IT
WAS THE
QUICKEST
WAY TO
SHOW THAT
GUY THAT
WE'RE THE
SAME
MODEL..

C'MON,
I HAD
TO, AL-
RIGHT?

はぁ...
Grunch

...OHP

...HONESTLY,
I'D FEEL LIKE
A CHUMP IF I
FIXED IT FOR
YOU...



SO
YOU RAN
INTO THE
MOTHER
KEEPERS.



WOULD
YOU BELIEVE
THE DUDE
WAS IN THE
RESISTANCE?

HIS
NAME'S
RICALNA...
YOU'VE
HEARD OF
HIM, RIGHT?
THE ONE
FROM
COSMOS.
THEY SAID
HE DIED
TEN YEARS
AGO...



YEAH...
JUST ONE
OF THEM,
THOUGH.

WELL, IT
HELPED
THAT HE
WAS THE
SAME
MODEL
AS ME.



...WHAT
WAS HE
LIKE?

BUT I
THOUGHT
HE WAS A
PRETTY
COOL
GUY.

WELL,
I DON'T
THINK YOU
COULD
SAY WE HIT
IT OFF,
REALLY.

...AH,
YEAH... I
RECALL A
BIT ABOUT
THAT.



I JUST
DON'T
CARE
ABOUT
PEOPLE
WHO
COULDN'T
BRING
ME ANY
BENEFITS.

NOW
YOU'RE
TALKING
CRAZY.

YOU,
SHOWING
AN INTER-
EST IN
SOMEONE
ELSE.



NOT
SURE I'D
REALLY SAY
HE COMES
WITH BEN-
EFITS...

BUT I'D
DO ANY-
THING TO
GET MY
HANDS
ON HIM.

SO,
YOU
THINK
HE CAN
BENEFIT
YOU IN
SOME
WAY?



HEH,
YEAH...
GOOD
POINT.



LOOKS
LIKE YOU'RE
SHUTTEN.



TO...
FORGET ALL
THE WORTH-
LESS SHIT...
RESISTANCE,
EVEN...

...AND
JUST GO
ALL-OUT
WITH
HIM IN A FIGHT
TO THE DEATH...
THAT WOULD
BE SUCH A
BLAST,
MAN.



IT'S
BEEN SO
LONG
SINCE I
FELT THIS
THILL
YENOW?



...THERE'S
NO SENSE IN
DREAMING IF
HE WON'T
EVER BE
MINE.



MAYBE
I'LL GO
TRY A
LITTLE
MORE
PERSUA-
SION
ON HIM
SOME-
TIME.



REPTILES

...I SEE...



BASICALLY,
ADAM AND I
BOTH WORKED
ON THE
DESIGNS FOR
THE MOTHER
KEEPERS.

...ADAM
WAS...

...WELL,
YOU COULD
SAY WE WERE
COLLEAGUES...
OR SOMETHING
LIKE THAT.



...YOU
COULD SAY
THAT THE
DESIGNS
WERE ONLY
COMPLETED
BECAUSE
WE WORKED
ON THEM
TOGETHER.

OR
RATHER,
SINCE WE
COMPENSATED
FOR EACH
OTHER'S
PLANS IN THE
DEVELOPMENT
PROCESS...



...YEAH...

HUMP
BUT IF
THIS ADAM
LIVES IN THE
SLUMS...

...THEN
HE MUST'VE
LEFT EDEN,
OR GOTTEN
EXILED OR
SOMETHING,
RIGHT?



...THIS
ADAM FELLOW
SEEMS LIKE A
PERSON WHO
WOULD BE IN-
DISPENSABLE
TO OUR DE-
PARTMENT.

BUT
FROM
WHAT
YOU
SAY...



I
KICKED
HIM OUT
OF EDEN.

JUST
LIKE YOU
SAID,
HE'S IN-
DISPENS-
ABLE.

HOW-
EVER...

...THAT
GUY WAS
ABUSING
HIS AU-
THORITY...

WHAT
EXACTLY
LED YOU
TO BANISH
SUCH AN IM-
PORTANT
PERSON?

ON
MOTHER.

...PEE-
FORMING
SECRET
RESEARCH,
UNDER
MY VERY
NOSE...

HE
BEGAN
...

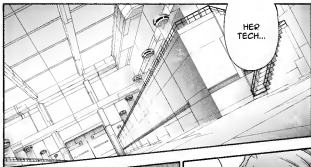
PUFF

RESEARCH
ON WHAT?

HA!
AS IF!

EVEN I
COULDN'T
CONCOCT
THAT SNAIL
OF BLACK
BOXES
PACKED FULL
OF LOST
TECHNOL-
OGY.

HUH?
BUT JIM,
I THOUGHT
YOU BUILT
MOTHER.





SHE'S A
PRODUCT
OF...

...THE
MADNESS
OF THE
GOLDEN
AGE.



COOL,
THANKS
MUCH!



I'VE
FINISHED
YOUR
REPAIRS.



YEAH,
YEAH,
FINE,
YOU DA
BOSS.



I CAN'T
STAND
DEALING
WITH THE
RESULTS
OF YOUR
STUPID
ACTIONS.

DON'T
GO TEARING
OFF YOUR
SKIN AGAIN.



I MADE
YOU INTO
A CYBORG
WHEN YOU
WERE ABOUT 98
YEARS
OLD...

HMM,
LET'S
SEE...



...SAY,
HOW
LONG
HAVE WE
BEEN
HANGING
OUT TO-
GETHER
NOW?



FOR
SOMEONE
WHO'S NOT
A CYBORG,
YOUR LOOKS
HAVEN'T
CHANGED
MUCH,
EITHER.

EASY
TO LOSE
TRACK,
SINCE MY
LOOKS
HAVEN'T
CHANGED
SINCE I
BECAME A
CYBORG.



...SO
THAT'D
MAKE IT
ABOUT 80
YEARS. I
GUESS?



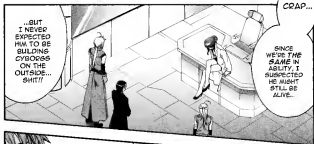
AL-
THOUGH,
NOW THAT
I THINK
ABOUT
IT...



PRETTY
CREEPY,
Y'KNOW?

THE
END





...BUT
I NEVER
EXPECTED
HIM TO BE
BUILDING
CYBORGS
ON THE
OUTSIDE...
SHIT!!

CRAP...

SINCE
WE'RE THE
SAME IN
ABILITY, I
SUSPECTED
HE MIGHT
STILL BE
ALIVE...



...NO,
GRAHAM
SAID THE
MOTHER
COM-
PUTER IS
CRUCIAL

...

...AND
THAT
EDEN
WOULD
COLLAPSE
IF WE
SEIZED
IT...

DOES
HE REALLY
WANT
MOTHER
THAT
BADLY...?



...IS
ALSO THE
COLLAPSE
OF EDEN?

DO
YOU THINK
MAYBE HIS
OBJECTIVE

...



...IT
WAS
JUST
EVEN...



YEAH,
I WISH...



JIM...
WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN
...?

...
HUH?



IF
WE'RE
NOT
CARE-
FUL...

MOTHER
COULD BRING
ABOUT THE
END OF THE
WORLD.

A black and white manga-style illustration of a city street. The perspective is looking down a narrow alleyway between tall buildings. On the right, a building has a large cross symbol on its side. The sky is filled with a large, dark, oval-shaped speech bubble containing text. Debris is falling from the sky, and there are motion lines suggesting a chaotic scene.

THE
EARTH
WILL BURN
ALL OVER
AGAIN...
GOT IT?



WHAT'S
THAT SUP-
POSED TO
MEAN?

SHE
COULD
BRING
ABOUT
THE END
OF THE
WORLD
...?

MOTHER
WASN'T
BUILT TO
MANAGE
EDEN.

SHE'S
THE CORE
OF THE LAST
WEAPON.



No.014_LAST WEAPON



IT WAS
COBBLED
TOGETHER
DURING THE
GOLDEN
AGE, IN
ORDER TO
WIN THAT
RIDICULOUS
WAR.

THE
LAST
WEAPON
WAS A
WEAPON
OF MASS
DESTRUCTION.



NOW
THAT I
KNOW HE'S
MAKING HIS
MOVE, I'D
BETTER LET
YOU GUYS
IN ON THE
STORY...



...NEARLY
EVERYTHING
FROM THE
GOLDEN
AGE WAS
DESTROYED BY
ARMAGEDDON
DURING THE
TERMINAL
WAR.

BUT,
JIM...

IT HAD
YOUR USUAL
ARRAY OF
NUCLEAR
AND
HYDROGEN
BOMBS,
AMONG
OTHER
THINGS.



—OKAY,
THEN
CONSIDER
THIS
FACT:



MOREOVER,
THE GOLDEN
AGE WAS AN
ANCIENT
CIVILIZATION
THAT
FELL OVER
A THOUSAND
YEARS
AGO.

EVEN
IF ANY
ARTIFACTS
STILL REMAIN,
I CAN'T
FATHOM HOW
THEY WOULD
FUNCTION
NORMALLY.



MOTHER
IS THE MAIN
CORE OF THE
ARMAGEDDON,
WHICH
INCINERATED
THE EARTH.

IT STILL
EXISTS TO THIS
DAY, ITS MAIN
BODY DRIFTING
OUT IN SPACE...
POWERED AND
READY TO
LAUNCH AT
MOTHER'S
SIGNAL.



OH
NO...



...BUT IT
SERVES THEM
RIGHT THAT
EVERYTHING
WENT TO
HELL AS A
RESULT.

OR MAYBE
THERE WAS
SOMETHING
THEY WANTED
TO PROTECT
SO BADLY THAT
THEY WOULD
GO SO FAR AS
TO SUIT
THAT THING. I
REALLY GUNNO
WHAT...

THE
ANCIENTS
MUST'VE
HAD THEIR
SHADE OF
MADMEN,
HMP



SO YOU
SEE... WE
NEED TO
KEEP
MOTHER
AROUND,
FOR THOSE
PARTS TO
REMAIN ON
STANDBY.



SO
THAT'S
WHAT
YOU
MEANT.

"THE
EARTH
WILL
BURN
ALL
OVER
AGAIN"
...



AND
APMA-
BEDDOON
ISN'T
THE
ONLY
ISSUE.

MOTHER
ALSO
HANDLES THE
MAINTENANCE
PROGRAMS
FOR THE
EXTANT
SECTIONS OF
THE LAST
WEAPON.



ONCE
ADAM
MADE
THOSE
DISCOVER-
IES...

...I HAD
NO CHOICE
BUT TO
BANISH
HIM.



THEY
REALLY
TRICKED
ME
GOOD...
DAMMIT
...



LATER I
GOT THE
WORD THAT
HE'D BEEN
ASSASSI-
NATED...



...HE
ALMOST
CERTAINLY
PLANS
TO BUILD
CYBORGs IN
ORDER TO
OPPOSE THE
KEEPERS.

ANYWAY,
IF ADAM'S
GOALS
HAVEN'T
CHANGED...





DON'T FORGET THAT WE NEED TO DEFEND HEAVEN'S TOWER, AS WELL AS MOTHER, AT ALL COSTS.



SINCE HEAVEN'S TOWER WAS BUILT TO SERVE AS A SHELTER FROM ARMAGEDDON...

...HE'D NEED TO TAKE OVER THIS PLACE BEFORE ACTIVATING THE LAST WEAPON.



AH, I SEE... SO THAT'S WHY THIS PLACE IS SO IMPREGNABLE...



SEEMS AN EXTREMELY RICH GUY.

NOT THE KIND WHO'D TOLERATE USING THE SHOOBY GOODS THAT YOU'RE LIMITED TO IN THE SLUMS WHERE EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY...



STAY
ON YOUR
GUARD.

I DON'T
KNOW HOW
OR WHEN HE'LL
ATTACK... BUT
YOU CAN BE
SURE THAT
HE WILL.



ROGER
THAT!

UNDER-
STOOD,
MA'AM.



SURELY
THERE'S
SOMETHING
WE CAN DO...
HOW ABOUT
LINT AND I
DO SOME
INFORMATION
GATHERING?



!



SAY,
JUN!



ROGER
!!

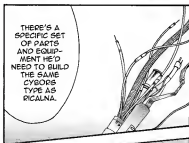
BYE!
YOU'RE
OUR SLIMS
EXPECT. SO
INVESTIGATE
THE BLACK
MARKETS
AND
MILITARIZED
DISTRICTS.



GOOD
THOUGHT...
HE'S GOT
TO BE
MAKING
ARRANGE-
MENTS TO
ACQUIRE
PARTS AND
MATERIALS
FOR CY-
BORGS...



...RIGHT,
THEN!



THERE'S A
SPECIFIC SET
OF PARTS
AND EQUIP-
MENT HE'D
NEED TO BUILD
THE SAME
CYBORG
TYPE AS
RICALNA.



SNIFF
HIM OUT BY
FILTERING
FOR THE
ROUTES TO
PROCURE
THOSE
PARTS AND
MATERIALS.



LINT,
YOU GO
TRACE
THE NET-
WORK.

I'LL
DO MY
BEST.

CHECK
THE LOSS
OF EVERY
CONNECTION
MADE FROM
THE SLUMS.

Okay!

HEY, LINT!
LET'S GET
MOVING
ON THAT!

ノックノック
Knock Knock

YES,
LET'S.

LEAVE
IT TO
US!

HE'S NOT THE
KIND TO LEAVE
BEHIND ANY
TRACES... BUT
YOU MAY BE
ABLE TO GET
A HOLD OF
SOMETHING.
HOP TO IT.

スラム
Slam

...NOW,
THEN.

ドリーム
Dream





UNDER-
STAND
THAT, SINCE
YOU WON'T
HAVE ANY
CHOICE IN
THE MATTER
WHILE IN
AUTO
COMBAT
MODE.

ADAM



...



...WELL,
YEAH.

THERE
ARE SOME
SHELTERS
FOR
REGULAR
CITIZENS...
BUT I
DOUBT
THEY'D
STAND
UP UNDER
ARMAGED-
DON.

...EVEN IF
HEAVEN'S
TOWER IS AN
ARMAGEDDON
SHELTER...
I GET ONLY
"IMPORTANT"
PEOPLE LIKE
THE FAT-CAT
POLITICIANS
ARE GOING
TO BE AL-
LOWED IN.



WHAT I
CAN TELL
YOU FOR
SURE...

...IS THAT
IF ADAM
GETS AROUND
TO THE LAST
WEAPON...

...HE'LL
EXTINGUISH
EVERY-
THING.



FINE...
COUNT
ME IN.



—



OUR
DEAL IS
OFF...



...WOW,
KID...
YOU'RE
MORE
PLIABLE
THAN I
IMAGINED
...

—



DON'T
SET ME
WRONG.

I'LL
COOPERATE
WITH YOU,
BUT ONLY
BECAUSE
IT'S FOR
OUR MUTUAL
BENEFIT.

...IF YOU
ORDERED ME
TO FIGHT
FOR A
BUNCH OF
LOUSY
POLITI-
CIANS.

OH,
REALLY?

THEN
WHO
WILL
YOU
FIGHT
FOR?

...I'LL...

THAT'S
TOO MUCH
OF A
SUDDEN,
TOO MANY
TO THINK
ABOUT...

FOR THE
PEOPLE IN
THE SLUMS...
AND... THE
ORDINARY
CITIZENS OF
EDEN...

...NO,
WAIT.



...THEN
SHE'LL
BE MY
REASON
TO
FIGHT.

IF
FIGHTING
HERE WILL
ALLOW
ME TO
PROTECT
HER SOME-
HOW...



I'LL
FIGHT...

... TO
PROTECT
THE ONE
MOST
PRECIOUS
TO ME...



...I'LL
LET YOU
PEOPLE
MAKE USE
OF MY
ABILITIES.

FOR
HER
SAKE
ALONE
...



...WORKS
FOR ME.



AFTER
THAT,
YOU
CAN DO
WHATEVER
YOU WANT.

SURE
THING.



IF I'M
GOING TO
DO ANYTHING
ABOUT THAT
ADAM GUY,
YOU'RE GOING
TO HAVE TO
LET ME GO
BACK TO THE
BLUES.



GIVE
ME
YOUR
WORD
ON THAT.



HAVE
SOME
FAITH IN
THERE,
YEAH?



THAT REMINDS
ME... YOU'VE
SPENT THIS
WHOLE TIME
IN MAINTENANCE...



HERE.



IT'S
THE KEY
TO YOUR
OWN
PRIVATE
ROOM.

WE'VE GOT
LOTS MORE
EMPTY ROOMS
AROUND, SO
USE IT HOWEVER
YOU LIKE.

...WHAT'S
THIS
STICK
FOR?



UH, YEAH.
DIDN'T YOU
HEAR YOUR-
SELF SAY
YOU'LL
COOPERATE?

I WOULDN'T
BE EXPECTING
ANY SORT OF
COOPERATION
FROM A PRISONER
OR GUEST.
BESIDES, IT'D
BE A HASSLE
IF YOU DIDN'T
HAVE A ROOM.

...HMM?
YOU
REALLY
MEAN
IT...?



...YOU
COULD
PUT THAT
LESS
BLUNTLY
...

GET
YOURSELF
MOVED OUT
OF HERE
WHILE I'M OUT
TAKING A
BREATH.

OKAY, I
GET THE
POINT
ALREADY.

YOU'RE
PRETTY
DAMN
ANNOYING.

MAINLY
BECAUSE IT'S
A PAIN HAVING
YOU HANG
AROUND HERE
IN MAINTE-
NANCE.



YOU'LL
SHUT DOWN
IF YOU TRY
TO LEAVE
WITHOUT
IT.



Duty

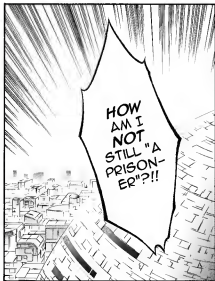
OH,
RIGHT.

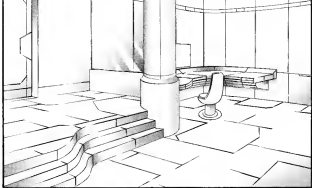
YOU
NEED TO
GET MY
PERMIS-
SION
BEFORE
LEAVING
EVEN.



WH-
WHY
?!

アハハ
ハハハ





No.015_GARDEN







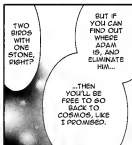
P-
PLEASE, NO...
ANYTHING
BUT
THAT!!!

...HUH?
WHAT'S
YOUR DEAL?
I THOUGHT
YOU WANTED
TO GET BACK
TO THE SLUMS,
FOR A VISIT IF
NOTHING ELSE.



YOU
HAVE MY
PERMISSION.
SO PRETEND
TO ACCEPT HIS
INVITATION,
SCOUT
AROUND A
BIT, AND THEN
REPORT BACK
TO ME.

WHAAAAAT
?!!



TWO
BIRDS
WITH
ONE
STONE,
RIGHT?

BUT IF
YOU CAN
FIND OUT
WHERE
ADAM
IS, AND
ELIMINATE
HIM...

...THEN
YOU'LL BE
FREE TO GO
BACK TO
COSMOS, LIKE
I PROMISED.



TO
REALLY
RATHER
NOT AS-
SOCATE
WITH THAT
GUY...

W-WELL...
HOW DO I
PUT THIS...



THAT
SETS ME
REALLY
CURIOUS
ABOUT WHY
YOU'D
HATE THE
GUY SO
MUCH.

WOW...
YOU'RE
PRETTY
UPSET...

...URGH!
BUT, I
REALLY
DON'T
WANT
TO!!!

...YES,
MA'AM.

IN THE
MEANTIME,
YOU TWO
KEEP CHIP-
PING AWAY
AT THE
INTEL.

...AH,
WELL...

GUESS
WE'LL
JUST HAVE
TO WAIT
FOR HIM
TO MAKE A
MOVE...

EXCEPT
FOR EMER-
GENCIES,
THERE'S
REALLY
NOTHING
FOR ME TO DO.

...AND,
SO,
HERE
I AM.

NOT
ON YOUR
LIFE.

WHEN
YOU FEEL
UP TO IT,
DICALNA,
YOU'RE
WELCOME
TO VISIT
JOKES AND

IT'S
SUCH A
WASTE OF
SPACE...

WHAT DO
THE RICH
WANT WITH
THESE
HUGE
ROOMS?

Not
Leisure
Class
→

OR
MAYBE
...

...THIS
ROOM IS
JUST TOO
BIG FOR ME
TO RELAX.





UH... I
THOUGHT I'D
TRY GETTING
THE HANGS OF
THE MAP...

WHAT'RE
YOU DOING
HERE?

...BUT ALL I
HAVE IS THE
LAYOUT...
I DON'T
KNOW MY
WAY AROUND
ANY OF IT...

OH...
TRUE,
THIS
PLACE IS
PRETTY
BIG...

WOULD
YOU LIKE
ME TO GIVE
YOU A
TOUR?

...YEAH.



YUP!

IT'S
ROUGH
NOT
KNOWING
A PLACE,
RIGHT?

HMP...A
TOUR...?



OH... BUT
FROM WHAT
SCHROEDER
SAID,
THIS GEL'S
SLIM-BRED...
LIKE ME...

MMM...
A TOUR

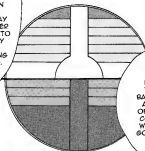
I REALLY
DON'T WANNA
ASSOCIATE
WITH ANYONE
FROM
HEAVEN'S
TOWER...

GREAT!
JUST
LEAVE IT
TO ME!

...

...OKAY,
SURE...

THE
BUILDING
IS DIVIDED
INTO TEN
AREAS,
WHICH MAY
BE FURTHER
DIVIDED INTO
SECURITY
LEVELS
DEPENDING
ON USE.



SEE,
HEAVEN'S
TOWER IS
BASICALLY AN
ASSEMBLY
OF AGENCIES
CONNECTED
WITH EDEN'S
GOVERNMENT.



AREAS FIVE
THROUGH
NINE ARE AD-
MINISTRATION,
RELATED TO
THE LEGISLA-
TURE OR
MILITARY
AFFAIRS.



RIGHT
NOW
WE'RE
IN AREA
FOUR.

IT'S
PUBLIC AND
ACCESSI-
BLE BY
REGULAR
CITIZENS.





HUH, YOU'RE RIGHT...



AREA TEN, ON THE HIGHEST STORY, IS THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT...



INCIDENTALLY, AREA ZERO, OUR DIVISION, IS TOP SECRET, SO IT DOESN'T EVEN SHOW UP ON THE REGULAR MAPS.



THE UNDERGROUND AREAS ONE THROUGH THREE ARE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, WHERE THEY CONDUCT RESEARCH INTO SPACE EXPLORATION AND, WELL, ARMAMENTS, BUT THAT'S NOT PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE...



- BUT ALL OF THE PANELS IN HEAVEN'S TOWER, INCLUDING THAT ONE, ARE SET UP SO THAT LINT CAN TAKE CONTROL OF THEM

THE SECURITY CENTER OPERATES THEM DURING REGULAR PATROLS...



YUP.

...SO THAT'S A SECURITY PANEL ...?



YUP...



TRUE, THAT SCHROEDER GUY DID KINDA... BARGE HIS WAY IN...

AL-
THOUGH THE OTHER AREAS, ESPECIALLY THE MILITARY SECTIONS, DON'T SEEM TO CARE MUCH FOR THAT.

A black and white manga panel showing two characters standing in a futuristic hallway with large windows. The character on the left is taller, with spiky hair and a long coat. The character on the right is shorter, with long hair and a vest. They are looking at each other.

THE
KEEPERS' JURISDICTION
WAS
ORIGINALLY LIMITED TO
AREA
ZERO...

A close-up of a character with long, dark hair and a serious expression.

...BUT JIM
TOOK THE
LIBERTY
OF EX-
PANDING
IT.

A black and white manga panel showing two characters standing in a futuristic hallway with large windows. The character on the left is taller, with spiky hair and a long coat. The character on the right is shorter, with long hair and a vest. They are looking at each other.

IF
ONLY WE
COULD
WORK
TOGETHER...
WE'D BE
ABLE TO
DEAL WITH
MANY
MORE
CRIMES...

A close-up of a character with spiky hair and a serious expression.

Good
grab...

SO
NOW THE
PEOPLE FROM THE
OTHER
AREAS
TREAT US
LIKE THE
ENEMY.

A close-up of a character with spiky hair and a serious expression.

BUT THOSE
PEOPLE SEEM
TO VALUE THEIR
OWN PRESTIGE
ABOVE
COOPERATION...

A close-up of a character with spiky hair and a serious expression.

G-
GARDEN?

A black and white manga panel showing two characters in a futuristic hallway. One character is standing and looking at the other, who is sitting on the floor.

HUH
PI

OH,
YEAH! HEY
DICALNA,
HAVE YOU
BEEN TO
THE
GARDEN
YET?







YEAH,
NOT
REALLY...
THERE'RE
A FEW
PARKS...

...BUT ALL THE
PLANTS IN BORN
ARE MAN-MADE...
FOR ALL WE KNOW,
THIS GARDEN MAY
BE THE ONLY
PLACE WITH
REAL TREES.

TO THINK
HEAVEN'S
TOWNS
HAD A PLACE
LIKE THIS...

NOT EVEN
BORN ITSELF
HAS THIS
MUCH
GREENERY,
DOES IT?



YUP! I'M
FROM
COLONY
B-60.

SAY...
WEREN'T
YOU
BORN
IN THE
SLUMS?

WELL...

...THE
SLUMS
ARE ALL
BARREN,
ANY-
WAY...



...THAT
SCHROEDER
BURNED
TO THE
GROUND.

RIGHT!
THAT'S THE
DISTRICT...

...WAIT,
WASN'T
THAT
...?!

...WHY...
DID YOU
BECOME A
MOTHER
KEEPER?

WHAT
MADE YOU
DECIDE TO
FIGHT FOR
THEM?

AL-
THOUGH
AT THE TIME
I WAS HERE
ASLEEP, IN
THE MIDDLE
OF MY RE-
STRUCTUR-
ING.

...

"CRAZY
SCIENTIST"

OH MAY
LOOK THE
PART, BUT
SHE'S
ACTUALLY
REALLY
NICE.

SO THAT
CRAZY
SCIENTIST
DID THIS TO
YOU, JUST
LIKE SHE DID
TO ME?

OH, "HOW
SYAL BECAME A
MOTHER KEEPER" -
IT'S A LONG
STORY, YOU'LL
JUST FIND
IT OUT.

HAHAHAH!
TRUE, SHE
ACTS PRETTY
STRANGE
MOST OF
THE TIME.

SO YOU
SAY... BUT
I DON'T
SEE IT AT
ALL...



...WELL...

SO
NOW
YOU'RE
WONDERING
WHY I'M
FIGHTING
HERE...

...I
GUESS
IT'S TO...
RETURN
THE
FAVOR?



RETURN
THE
FAVOR
...?



MIRACU-
LOUSLY,
AND
AGAINST
ALL ODDS,
I SOME-
HOW
MANAGED
TO STAY
ALIVE.



LONG AGO,
I WAS SOLD AS
A SLAVE TO
SOMEONE FROM
EDEM. DURING
THAT TIME, I
WAS BEATEN
DOWN AND OVER-
WORKED TO
THE BRINK OF
DEATH.



REMEMBER
WHAT
SCHROEDER
SAID
ABOUT
ME? IT'S
TRUE.



WHENEVER
I ACTED
LIKE THAT,
SHE'D FLY
INTO THESE
SERIOUS
RAGES.



I EVEN
GOT ANGRY
WITH JIM FOR
RESCUING ME.
RESENTING
HER INTERFER-
ENCE IN MY
LIFE

BECAUSE
OF EVERY-
THING I'D
SUFFERED AT
THEIR HANDS,
I LOATHED
ALL PEOPLE
FROM EDEM...
AND HATED
MYSELF, AS
WELL.



I... I
SEE...



IT
HAD ME
THINKING,
LIKE, "WHAT
KIND OF
SHE-DEVIL
ARE YOU
?"

Grrrr...

LIKE, NOT
JUST SIMPLY
ANGRY...
BUT REALLY
VIOLENT, LIKE
HITTING AND
KICKING, AND
CURSING A
BUNCH, YOU
KNOW?



IT WAS
JUST A
BUNCH
OF TINY
CHANGES
IN THE
BEGINNING.

...

...BUT...

...BECAUSE
OF THAT...
I STARTED
TO FEEL LIKE
TRYING A
LITTLE
HARDER.

I'D
BEEN SO
APATHETIC
ABOUT
EVERY-
THING
BEFORE...

...BUT
THEY BUILT
UP OVER
TIME TO
MAKE ME
THE PERSON
I AM
TODAY.

...SO
THINKING
ON IT NOW,
I WONDER IF
THAT WAS
WHEN I FINALLY
DECIDED TO
TAKE MORE
INTEREST IN
MY LIFE,
MAYBE?





WHEN
YOU DO...
I'D LOVE
TO SEE
YOUR
SMILE.



...AND
SOMEDAY,
YOU MIGHT
BE ABLE TO
THINK OF US
AS YOUR
COMPANES,
TOO.

TAKE
YOUR
TIME
...
...LET
THOSE
TINY
CHANGES
BUILD
UP...

THAT'S
WHY I HOPE
YOU CAN
COME TO
LIKE US TOO,
RICALNA.

HUH
...?





...KINDA
SORRY I
ASKED

...I
REGRET
LEARNING
THAT
MUCH.

SOME-
HOW,
I'M...



I
DON'T
WANT TO
GET ANY
MORE
INVOLVED
THAN
THAT.

I ONLY
WANT
TO USE
THESE
PEOPLE.





...ARE HER
WORDS
MEANT TO
BE THE
START OF
MY OWN
"BLUNCH
OF TINY
CHANGES"

2



...BUT I
CAN'T
HELP
WONDER-
ING...

三ノ宮 司





...COME
FROM
THAT
DEMILITA-
RIZED
DISTRICT...

...STILL,
SHE
DID...



WHAT WAS IT
LIKE FOR HER
TO WAKE UP...
AND FIND
OUT THAT HER
HOMETOWN
WAS GONE...



WHY
AM I
GETTING
ALL SEN-
TIMEN-
TAL!!

Argh!

Argh!

NO!!



STOP
THINK-
ING
ABOUT
IT!



JUST
STOP.





ACK,
SHE SAW
ME!!!



1313 1313
SHAKE SHAKE

OH... I
GUESS
NOT,
THEN.

OKAY...
YOU NEED
TO KEEP
A TIGHT
HOLD ON
HIM.

HE'S
PRECIOUS
TO YOU,
RIGHT?

1313

...FROM
THIS
ANGLE...

"SHE'S
THE
CORE
OF THE
LAST
WEAPON."

...SHE
LOOKS
LIKE
JUST AN
ORDI-
NARY
GIRL...

THE
WEAPON
OF MASS
DESTRUCTION
FROM THE
GOLDEN
AGE
SLUMBER
IN SOME
WHERE
ON THE
EARTH.

I'D
HEARD
RUMORS
ABOUT
IT...

THE LAST
WEAPON...

...FOR A
WEAPON
LIKE
THAT TO
STILL BE
AROUND.

SO IT
DOESN'T
SEEM
ALL THAT
WEIRD...

WELL,
MOST
OF THE
EQUIPMENT
THE RESIS-
TANCE
TEAMS
USE ARE
"RETRO
WEAPONS"
FROM THE
GOLDEN
AGE.

HOW-
EVER...

...COULD
BE THE
HEART OF
SUCH A
FRIGHTENING
WEAPON...?

WHO'D
HAVE
THOUGHT
THAT THIS
GIRL...



SEE,
MY OLD
COLONY
DIDN'T HAVE
ANY OTHER
CHILDREN
LENA'S
AGE.

WELL,
IT'S PRETTY
UNUSUAL
FOR A RE-
SISTANCE
COLONY
TO HAVE
ANY SMALL
CHILDREN
...



...YOU
COULD
HAVE
BEEN
LENA'S
FRIEND
...

IF ONLY
YOU
WERE A
HUMAN
CHILD,
LIVING IN
COS-
MOS'S
COLONY
...



SHE'S
BEEN
PAINFULLY
SHY HER
WHOLE
LIFE,
SEE.



AND NOW...
SHE'S GROWN
UP... AND
THOUGH NEW
MEMBERS
WOULD HAVE
JOINED, AND
THERE'RE
PROBABLY
MORE KIDS
HER AGE.



SHE
WAS ALSO
TRAUMATIZED
FROM OUR
PARENTS ABAN-
DONING US,
AND WOULDN'T
OPEN UP
TO ANYONE
BESIDES
ME...



...

I'M
WORRIED
ABOUT
WHETHER
SHE'S MADE
ANY GOOD
FRIENDS... OR
COMRADES
SHE CAN
RELY ON...



WELL...
TO ME ALL
THAT WAS
JUST A
FEW DAYS
AGO.

BUT
REALLY,
IT'S BEEN...
TEN YEARS
ALREADY...



SO
THERE'S
NO SENSE
IN EVEN
TELLING
YOU ALL
THIS.



...



...BUT
WHEN I
WOKE UP,
IT WAS
TEN YEARS
LATER... IT'S
LIKE SOME
JOKE. YOU
JUST CAN'T
HELP LAUGH-
ING, YOU
KNOW?

IT FELT
LIKE I'D
ONLY BEEN
SLEEPING
A SHORT
WHILE...

TEN
YEARS
GONE...
IN AN
INSTANT
...

I
SHOULD'VE
HAD MORE...
HAPPY
TIMES, AND
SAD TIMES,
RIGHT?



HAHA
...
TEN
YEARS,
HUH...

WHAT
KIND OF
BROTHER
AM I...?

I LEFT
LENA
ALONE...

...

...FOR
TEN
WHOLE
YEARS...

NO...







No.016_COCYTUS









And don't get in my way.



ALL RIGHT, I GET IT...!



YOU MAY HAVE TAKEN OUT ONE TARGET, BUT YOUR MOTIONS ARE TOO EXPENSIVE.

MOVE MORE EFFICIENTLY.



ROUTES
SE-
CURED.

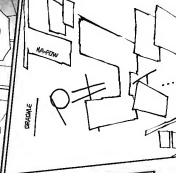
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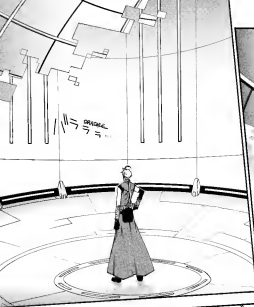
ERROR
CORREC-
TION
-0.3%.

133...
62...
01...









And share
some of the
blame for
hemming
me in!

...EXCUSE
ME...?



How
many
does that
make
now?

What
do you
think
you're
doing,
shooting
your
clies.?



BUT
SHOULDN'T
YOU BE
MONITOR-
ING MY
TARGET-
ING?

I... I'M
SORRY
ABOUT
THAT.



I WASN'T ASKING YOU TO DO ANYTHING!

I JUST WANTED TO BORROW THIS TRAINING ROOM... YOU'RE THE ONE WHO INSISTED ON JOINING IN!



I'M TAKING TIME OUT OF MY BUSY SCHEDULE BECAUSE YOU SAID, "I WANT SOME TRAINING."



THUS JIM ASKED ME TO DO THIS.

YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T WANT THAT.

WITHOUT MY INVOLVEMENT, THIS VR SYSTEM IS NO MORE THAN A TARGET-SHOOTING GAME.



WHAT COOPERATING?

COOPERATED?

Hey, I never asked you to cooperate with me!



SOOO GRIEF... AFTER ALL THAT TALK ABOUT, "I SET SO GOOFY WHEN I'VE GOT NOTHING TO DO, I NEED A WORKOUT."

YOU CALL WASTING BULLETS ON TARGETS I'D ALREADY DESTROYED "COOPERATING" ?!

YOU'RE JUST A NUISANCE ...





OH...
THIS IS NO
LAUGHING
MATTER...

IF
HE'S LIKE
THIS DURING
TRAINING,
THERE'S NO
GUARANTEE HE
WON'T INTER-
FERE WITH MY
STRATEGIES
DURING BATTLE
AS WELL.

BWA-
HA-
HA-
HA!

YOU
SURE
HAD A
TOUGH
TIME
THERE
!!



Hee hee!
SORRY,
MY BAD.

IT'S JUST
UNBELIEV-
ABLE HOW
PERFECTLY
INCOMPATI-
BLE YOU
TWO ARE.



HUH...
I DIDN'T
EXPECT
THAT...



HE AND
I SEEM
TO BE ON
COMPLETE-
LY DIFFER-
ENT WAVE-
LENGTHS...



YOU HARDLY
EVER ASSESS
PEOPLE USING
VAGUE TERMS
LIKE "WAVE-
LENGTH."



MM-
HAM...
THAT IS A
PROB-
LEM...



I TRY TO
KEEP MY
EMOTIONS
CHECK AS
MUCH AS
POSSIBLE...

...BUT IT
REALLY
SEEMS IM-
POSSIBLE
FOR ME TO
COOPERATE
WITH THAT
MAN!



OH...
YEAH,
SYAL
LEFT
EDEN.

...BY THE
WAY, JIM,
I HAVEN'T
SEEN SYAL
SINCE THIS
MORNING...
...WHERE
DID SHE
GO?



COLONY
W-13P



SHE
JUST
HEADED
OVER TO
COLONY
W-13.



I DIDN'T
ASK WHAT
SHE'S
LOOKING
FOR THERE.

APPARENTLY
THERE'S A
SPECIAL KINDA
MARKET THERE
THAT SHE
WANTS TO
VISIT.

YEAH,
AND I
TOLD
HER
THAT...

THAT'S A SLUM
DISTRICT, AND
APPARENTLY A
PARTICULARLY
DANGEROUS
ONE AT THAT.

DON'T
YOU THINK IT
WOULD BE
TOO DANGEROUS
FOR EVEN
SYAL TO
GO THERE
ALONE?



BUT THE
TIMING'S
BAD, I
HAVE A
MEETING I
HAVE TO
BE AT...

IT'S THE
LEAST I
CAN DO TO
HANDLE THE
RESPONSIBILITY.

JUST
IN CASE,
I SET UP THE
SYSTEM SO
THAT SHE CAN
GET IMMEDIATE
SUPPORT VIA
AN EMERGENCY
CALL...



...WELL...
I'D BETTER
HEAD OUT
BEFORE
THE OLD
GUYS START
SQUAWK-
ING...

SORRY,
LINT... BUT
WOULD YOU
TAKE CARE OF
SYAL IN MY
PLACE?

YES, OF
COURSE.





! COME ON... THE "VISITOR" WAS JUST YOU?

I also cannot take it myself...



HUH?

はいはい



UNDERSTOOD, MA'AM.



WHAT WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

SHOULDN'T
WE POOL
OUR INTEL?

WHAT
IS IT
WITH
YOUR
ATTI-
TITUDE...?

...YOU
MAY SAY,
"WE'RE
SUPPOSED
TO BE
WORKING
TOGETH-
ER"...

YOU MAY
NOT LIKE ME
VERY MUCH,
BUT WE'RE
SUPPOSED
TO BE
WORKING
TOGETHER.

HRM...

...OH.

THERE
IS SOME
MEASURE
OF REASON
IN YOUR
WORDS...

IT'S
UNSEEMLY
TO LET MY
SUBJECTIVE
OPINIONS
DEPRIVE
YOU OF IN-
FORMATION.

...BUT
YOU LOOK
READY TO
CHOKES ON
THOSE
WORDS.



OH
NO
...!!!

ARE
YOU
SATIS-
FIED
NOW?

APPARENTLY
SYAL WENT TO
INVESTIGATE
AT A BLACK
MARKET IN
COLONY
W-13.

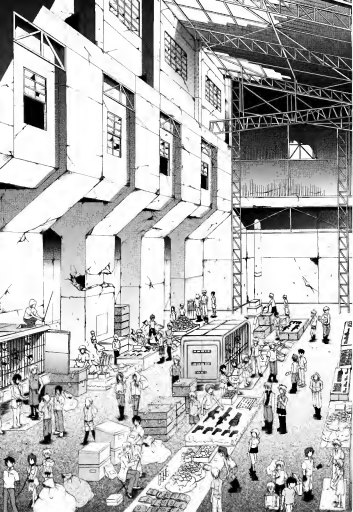
JIM TOLD
ME TO TAKE
COMMAND IN
HER PLACE,
TO BE READY
IN THE EVENT
OF AN EMER-
GENCY.

A BLACK
MARKET IN
COLONY
W-13...P!
...WHICH
ONE?!!

ALTHOUGH,
FROM WHAT
JIM SAID, IT
SOUNDS LIKE
A "SPECIAL
BLACK
MARKET."

THAT I
DON'T
KNOW.

I ONLY
HAVE
SUPERFICIAL
DETAILS
REGARDING
INSIDE
INFORMA-
TION ABOUT
THE SLUM.



IT
MUST
BE
COGYTUS
...!!



HAVE
HER
RETURN
TO BASE
RIGHT
AWAY.

THAT
PLACE
IS BAD
NEWS...!



WHY ARE
YOU GETTING
ANXIOUS? IS
THERE SOME-
THING ABOUT
THAT BLACK
MARKET...?

SHE
CAN'T GO
THERE!



LET ME
SET THIS
STRAIGHT...
YOU WANT TO
KNOW ABOUT
ANYTHING ON
THIS LIST?

AND
IT'S DOUBLY
SO IF YOU'RE
POKING
AROUND FOR
INFORMA-
TION!



WELL,
SHIT,
SHE...

YOU MAY
NOT FIND
THEM. OTHER
PLACES,
BUT AT THIS
MARKET,
PRACTICALLY
EVERYTHING
ON YOUR
LIST IS FOR
SALE.

RIGHT,
AT LEAST
ONE OF
THEM...
DOESN'T
MATTER
WHICH.

COULD
YOU
TELL ME
ABOUT THE
BUYERS?



HA/
HILARIOUS!
YOU'RE A
BRAVE ONE,
YOUNG
LADY!

COULD I
AT LEAST
HAVE A
LIST OF
NAMES?



THIS
MARKET
DEALS IN
SOME PRETTY
BIG-TICKET
ITEMS,
Y'KNOW? NOW
WHY WOULD I
GO NAMING
NAMES?



AND THE
SALES
GO BACK
MORE'N 20
YEARS.

THAT'S
A REAL
LOAD OF
DETAIL
YOU'RE
ASKING



OH, I
SEE...



NAW...
I RUN
MY BUSI-
NESS ON
TRUST,
SEE.

I DON'T
SELL OUT
THAT EASY.

BUT
WHAT IF
I PAID
YOU FOR
IT?!



...SAY,
YOUNG
LADY...



IT'S
NOTHING
THAT
MAJOR,
REALLY.



HUH?!

OH!
AHHAH!

WHAT'S
GOT YOU
INVESTIGAT-
ING THIS
DEEPLY?



OH, NOT
AT ALL...
SORRY I
COULDN'T
HELP OUT.



FOR
R&A

SORRY
TO BOTHER
YOU!



THAT
BLACK
MARKET IS
DIFFERENT
FROM THE
OTHERS.



...THE
MAFIA
...?!



RULES?



IT'S ODD
FOR HER TO
EVEN KNOW
ABOUT IT,
CONSIDERING
SHE'S FROM
A DEMILITA-
RIZED
DISTRICT...

BUT
ANYWAY,
THAT PLACE
IS DANGER-
OUS IF YOU
DON'T KNOW
THE RULES



ALSO,
THERE ARE
PEOPLE
FROM EDEN
WHO ACQUIRE
SUCH THINGS
THROUGH
THAT
MARKET.



IT
MAINLY
DEALS IN
DANGEROUS
GOODS
AND HUMAN
TRAFFICKING,
THINGS THAT
TAKE DISCREET
HANDLING EVEN
IN THE SLUMS.



THAT
MARKET HAS
GROWN A
LOT THANKS
TO THEIR PA-
TRONAGE.

AND FOR
THAT REASON
ESPECIALLY,
IT RELIES ON
PARTICULAR
"UNSPOKEN
UNDERSTAND-
INGS"...



NO... NOT
JUST THE
MAFIA.



A
SHOCKING
NUMBER OF
THE BUYERS
ARE RICH
GUYS AND
POLITICIANS.



...AND YOU
BECOME AN
ENEMY TO
THE ENTIRE
MARKET.

BREAK
EVEN
ONE OF
THEM...



...YEAH,
REALLY.

THOUGH YOU
WOULDN'T
EXPECT A RE-
SPECTABLE KID
LIKE THAT TO
KNOW ABOUT
THIS PLACE..



...OH,
HER?
...

THAT
MOUSE'S
SEEN
ASKING
AROUND
A LOT
LATELY...



WHAT-
EVER'S
USEFUL,
ANY-
THING
WILL
DO...

RIGHT,
THEN!



WHAT
WAS ON
HER
LIST?



...
MATERI-
ALS, I'D
SAY.

HUH
MATERI-
ALS??



NO
MATTER
WHAT
THE
REASON,
YOU
BREAK
THE
RULES...

TRAP
THAT
MOUSE.

YOU'RE
THE
ENEMY.

Z...

ZERIK
...?





No.017_ENEMY



YOUNG
LADY...

IS THIS
YOUR
FIRST TIME
VISITING
COCYTUS?



UH...
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

WHY
DID YOU
HAVE THEM
BRING ME
TO THE VIP
ROOM
...?



BUT
I DON'T
THINK I'VE
SEEN YOUR
FACE
BEFORE,
MISSIE...

NOW
ISN'T THAT
STRANGER I
NEVER FORGET
A CUSTOMER'S
FACE, EVEN
AFTER JUST
ONE VIEW.

HUH?
NO... I'VE
SEEN HERE
BEFORE...



SO
YOU
DON'T
KNOW?

I
MEAN,
IT'S NOT
LIKE
YOU'D SEE
EVERY
SINGLE
VISITOR.

I
GUESS
I JUST
DIDN'T
GO TO
YOUR
STAND,
THEN...



ALL
CUSTOMERS
MUST MEET
ME FIRST.

NO
EXCEP-
TIONS.



IT'S
SO THAT
THE OTHER
CUSTOMERS
CAN SHOP
WORRY-
FREE, GET
ME?



...OH.

NO
ROOKIES
ALLOWED.



...



WHO
TOLD
YOU
ABOUT
THIS
PLACE?



...I'LL
ONLY ASK
YOU THREE
TIMES, SO
SPILL.

CUT
THE
CRAP.

THEN I'LL
TELL YOU
WHERE I
FOUND OUT
ABOUT

OKAY,
LET'S
DO AN
INFO
SWAP!

COULD
YOU
START
WITH
SOME
NAMES
OF
PEOPLE
WHO
BOUGHT
ITEMS
ON THAT
LIST?

JUST
TELL
ME ONE
NAME:
WHO
TOLD
YOU?

...
REMEMBER
SEEING
ME...?

...YOU
REALLY
DON'T...

YOU
KNOW THE
FACES OF
YOUR
CUSTOMERS,
BUT NOT
YOUR
BOSS.

...NOW
FOR THE
LAST TIME
WHO THE
HELL TOLD
YOU?

I TOLD
YOU. I NEVER
FORGET A
CUSTOMER'S
FACE.



...NO.

IT'S
NOTHING.



HUH?



YES,
SIR!

HEY YOU,
CHECK ALL
THE CUSTOMERS.

SO
YOU'RE
NOT
GONNA
TALK?
...HEH,
WELL,
WHAT-
EVER.



COME
WITH
ME.



YOU
GUYS.



HANDS
OFF.



GET
YOUR
FILTHY
HANDS
OFF OF
ME.



SAY
WHAAT?





...WELL,
WELL.



MAY I
PLEASE
GET...

...A
LIST OF
NAMES?

HEY,
MISTER.



WHY
THE
HELL
NOT
P!

YOU
CAN'T
REACH
HERP!



BUT THE
KEEPERS'
SIGNAL HAS
A UNIQUE
SIGNATURE.

IT
SHOULDN'T
BE THAT
EASY TO
JAM...



I
DON'T
KNOW

THE
SIGNAL
APPEARS
TO BE
JAMMED
...

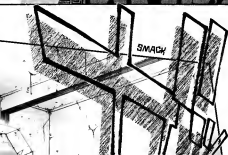


TCH...



...I
DON'T
KNOW.

DAMMIT...
ARE WE
TOO
LATE...P!





BESIDES...
YOUR
HANDLING
OF THIS
IMPLIES
THAT YOU
DO KNOW,
RIGHT?

WHAT
A PAIN
IN THE
ASS...

I JUST
WANT SOME
INFORMA-
TION.

WHETHER
OR NOT
I "KNOW"
ANYTHING
...

OR
AM I
WRONG
...?

...THIS
IS HOW I
ALWAYS
TREAT AN
ENEMY.

COULDN'T
SAY...



YOU,
YOUNG LADY,
BROKE THE
MOST
IMPORTANT
RULE OF
ALL.

ANYONE
WHO
BREAKS
THE
RULES.

"ENEMY"
...?



...AWW,
MAN...

I WENT
TO ALL THAT
TROUBLE TO
COME HERE AS
A CUSTOMER
AND TRY
SETTING
THOSE NAMES
PEACEABLY...
BUT I GUESS
I DON'T
COUNT AS A
CUSTOMER
ANYMORE.



...
WHICH
IS?

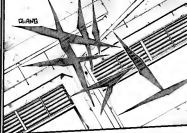


DON'T
DISCUSS
BUSI-
NESS
WITH
OUTSIDE
PARTIES.

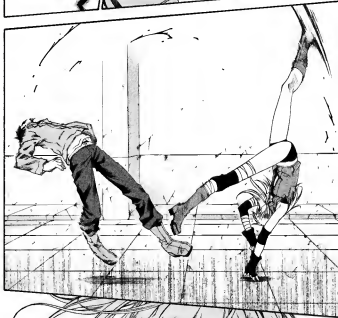


EH,
WHAT-
EVER.













SHIT

THERE'S
NO END
TO THEM!

CRASH





I THOUGHT SO...

GWA...
AH...
3!!

WHA
...?!!



NOW
I GOT IT...
LITTLE
MISSIE
HERE'S
ONE OF
THOSE
MOTHER
KEEPERS.



THAT
DIDN'T
FEEL LIKE
PUNCHING
A HUMAN.



I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
A THING LIKE
THAT WOULD
BE COMING
HERE FOR,
BUT...



YOU'RE
ONE OF
THOSE
CYBORSS
BUILT WITH
STATE-OF-
THE-ART
HEAVEN'S
TOWER
ENGINEER-
ING. HUH...?
INTEREST-
ING...



DO YOU
SERIOUSLY
THINK
I'D LET
IT LEAVE
IN ONE
PIECE?



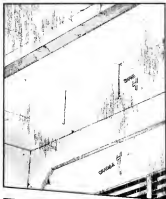


No.018_EMPEROR

MOTHER KEEPER

03









THIS
GUY'S...
ALSO...



AND HE
KEEPS
THROWING
THOSE
ATTACKS
WITH NO
BREAK IN
BETWEEN

SHIT... SHE
MANAGED
TO DODGE
THAT.

HE'S
GOT
ABNOR-
MALLY
HIGH
POWER
AND
SPEED
...

THINK
I'VE JUST
ABOUT GOT
YOUR SPECS
WORKED OUT
NOW.

HE'S
ABLE
TO OUT-
PACE
ME, AND
I'VE
BEEN
BUILT
FOR
SPEED

IS
THIS
GUY
ACTU-
ALLY

LOOKS
LIKE I CAN
QUIT HOLDING
BACK FOR YA.
BEEN AWHILE
SINCE I'VE
DONE THAT.

...
HUMAN
...?!!





...!!



Presenting
myself at
that cellar
expressly
to provide a
warning...

...
appears
to have
been all
for
naught.



I WOULD
PREFER...

... THAT
YOU ...

...ADDRESS
ME AS
"LIEUTENANT
GENERAL."









THAT
DON'T
MEAN A
THING
AGAINST
ZERIK.

URGH
...!!

WHAM





BLONDES
ARE BIG
MONEY.



IF WE SWAP
OUT THE BRAIN
FOR AN AI, WE
CAN MAKE HER
INTO ANYTHING
WE WANT.



A FIGHTER...
A MAD... A
LOVE DOLL...
ANYTHING'S
POSSIBLE,
GET WHAT I'M
SAYIN'?

THERE'S
NO WAY
SHE
WOULDN'T
SELL.



...
PLUS
...









...LIN-
HOLY
BLOOD-
LUST
...?!!

RULE
2...

WHEN
RULE 1
IS NOT
APPLICA-
BLE, THERE
ARE NO
PENALTIES
OR
FOULS.

RULE
1...

ANYTHING
NOT A GUN
IS A VALID
WEAPON.

RULE
3...

WHO-
EVER THE
OPPONENT,
YOU
MUST...

**KILL
THEM.**



No.019_CODE:499



Now
then...

...Do you
care to
explain
the
matter in
detail?





Under
what
authority
did you
issue...

...a Code
400,
"Forcible
Entry"?



THE
CAUSE IS
ADVANCED
SIGNAL
JAMMING
FROM
OUTSIDE.

WE HAVE
LOST ALL
COMMUNICA-
TION WITH A
LOVE MOTHER
KEEPPED
HEADED TO
W-13.



Did
you say...
"suggest"
?!

SUCH
CONDI-
TIONS
WOULD
SUGGEST
AN EMER-
GENCY
SITUATION.

WE
NEED TO
HANDLE THIS
BEFORE IT'S
TOO LATE...



You do realize the destination is COCYTUS, correct?

I WILL ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY OR...

Do you expect that would be enough?

Might I ask that you cease this non-sense?



INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT...?

You don't seem to recognize that moving against this opponent could create an international incident, if handled improperly.

If you send troops when an emergency call has not been issued, how do you plan to take responsibility in the event of no actual emergency?



Perhaps you might consider visiting the outside world occasionally, instead of staying cooped up in that cellar of yours.

Hmph... so you issued the order without that knowledge...

OH...?



SO
THAT
MEANS

...YOU
KNOW
ABOUT
THAT
BLACK
MARKET?

....!!



EVEN IF
WE TAKE A
ROUND, IT
WILL REQUIRE
A MINIMUM
OF THREE
HOURS TO
GET THERE

IF
POSSIBLE
ENTER
5:00
WHICH
COULD
YOU AT
LEAST
CONFIRM



...At
any rate, ..
matters
involving
Colony
VV-13 are
problematic.

I would
prefer that
your group
handle the
results of
your own
inaptitude.



WE
CAN'T.



HUHP



THAT'S
ENOUGH.



HE'S
GOT
ABSOLUTELY
NO
DESIRE TO
HEAR US
OUT.

WE
DON'T
HAVE TIME
TO WASTE
ARGUING
WITH THAT
GUY.

YOU
BASTARD
...

WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING?



BUT,
LIKE I
SAID,
IT'LL
TAKE AT
LEAST

...NO,
WAIT!



HUH?
...WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

WE
JUST
MIGHT
BE ABLE
TO GET
THERE IN
TIME.



BESIDES...
IF I GO,
THAT SHOULD
GIVE US MORE
FLEXIBILITY IN
DEALING WITH
THE SITUATION...



NORMALLY
WE'D NEED
JIM'S
PERMISSION
TO DO
THIS, BUT...

COME
WITH
ME.



THERE'S
NO
OTHER
WAY.



WOW
....!



WHAT
KIND OF
AIRCRAFT
IS THIS?!



EVERY-
THING SHE
BUILDS
IS SO
INSANELY
OVERPOW-
ERED...

INCIDENTALLY,
THIS IS
ANOTHER
ONE OF
JIM'S
HOBBYIST
PROJECTS.



THIS IS
TRANSCORE...
IT CAN ATTAIN
SPEED AT
MAGNITUDES
BEYOND
CURRENT
STANDARD
AIRCRAFT.

FOR
THAT
REASON,
APPARENT-
LY, NORMAL
HUMANS
CANNOT
RIDE IT...

...BUT
KEEPERS
MAY BE
ABLE TO
WITHSTAND
THE
ACCELE-
RATIONS.

BUT WHY...? I
THOUGH I'VE
NEVER SEEN
THIS THING
BEFORE,
SOMEHOW
I KNOW
HOW TO
OPERATE
IT...



THAT
WOMAN
...!!!

MOST
LIKELY SHE
INSTALLED
SOFTWARE
FOR USING
THIS.

JIM
SEEMED
TO BE HAVING
FUN ADDING
A VARIETY OF
FEATURES
WHILE
SHE WAS
MOODING
YOU.



I'M
COMING
WITH
YOU.

WHAA?!



BUT IT'S
GOOD THAT
I CAN USE
IT RIGHT
AWAY!

I'M
TAKING
THIS BABY
OUT, AND
YOU CAN'T
STOP ME.



JUST
STAYING HERE
AT A TIME LIKE
THIS WOULD
BE AKIN TO
SHIRKING MY
DUTIES.



I'M
ALSO
RESPONSIB-
LE FOR
THIS SITU-
ATION...



THAT'S
PRETTY
OBLIVENT
OF YOU, BUT
AREN'T YOU
NON-COMBAT
PERSONNEL
!!

HAVING
YOU
AROUND
WILL JUST
BE A DIS-
TRACTION
!!



YOU
CAN'T
TAKE ME
LIGHTLY,
EITHER.



YOU
REALLY
CAN'T GO
TAKING
COCYTUS
LIGHTLY!



...A
COFFIN
?!

WH-
WHAT'S
THAT
BOX...



I HAVE
MY OWN
COMBAT
ABILI-
TIES.



...

ALL
RIGHT,
THEN...
GET
ON!

BUT SINCE
WE MUST
HELP SYAL...
THIS IS NO
TIME TO BE
RESTRAINED
BY PAST
VOWS.



I
INTENDED
NEVER TO
USE THIS
AGAIN...



I'VE
TEMPORARILY
UNDONE THE
LIMITER THAT
JIM PUT ON
YOU, BUT
COULDN'T
REMOVE IT
COMPLETELY.

THE SYSTEM
WILL RESTORE IN
TWO HOURS... WE
NEED TO BE BACK
BY THEN.

TWO HOURS?
...THAT'S
PLENTY
OF
TIME.



BRAD
#1000000000





A
NORMAL
HUMAN
WOULDN'T
JUST BLACK
OUT. THEY'D
FLATTEN
LIKE A PAN-
CAKE.

FROM
1500
METERS
BELOW
GROUND
TO WHO-
KNOWS-
HOW-HIGH,
ALL IN ONE
SECOND
...



...
ABOUT
WHAT?

WHAT'S
THIS...
ELEC-
TRONIC
TELEBRA-
TION?

?!


...I'M
SUR-
PRISED.



...I
REALLY
DON'T
SET IT
MYSELF...

...



YOU'VE
BEEN SO
HOSTILE
TOWARDS
US, BUT NOW
YOU SAY,
"I'LL GO
HELP."

ムザーキーパー③



...WHY?

DOES ONE NORMALLY USE
SARCASM
WHEN THEY'RE IMPRESSED?





IF YOU
HAVE TIME
TO TALK,
HOW ABOUT
INCREASING
OUR
SPEED?

I DON'T
WANT TO
HEAD THAT
FROM YOU



YOU'RE
REALLY
BAPPING,
YOU
KNOW
THAT?
SERIOUS-
LY...



**WAY
AHEAD
OF YOU
ON
THAT!**